

TIP OF THE

Sept. 3, 2004

SWORD

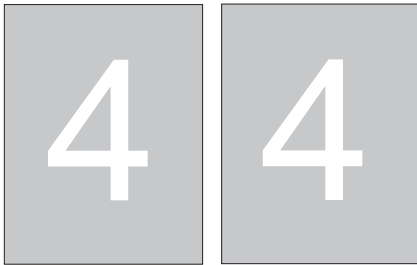
Incirlik Air Base, Turkey

Back to school

Incirlik prepares for another year

TIP OF THE SWORD

Volume 33 ♦ Number 34 ♦
http://source/39ABW_PA/html/tos.html



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Photo by Airman Bradley Lail

Brig. Gen. H. Levent Turkmen, 10th Tanker Base Command commander, speaks during the Turkish promotion ceremony Aug. 27. All promotions in the Turkish Armed Forces are made on this day every year. See related photo, Page 12.

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On the cover:

Nathan Gohl, 4, (foreground) shops with his family at the base exchange for back to school supplies. School starts at Incirlik Tuesday. For back-to-school tips, see related story, page 6. (Photo by Senior Airman Dallas Edwards.)

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Officials committed to helping people vote NEWS

Today to Sept. 11 designated Armed Forces Voters Week

By Kathleen Rhem

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Defense officials are committed to ensuring servicemembers have the ability to vote from anywhere in the world, said Department of Defense's top personnel officer.

"We're making a decided effort to make sure everyone gets the chance to vote," said Dr. David S. C. Chu, undersecretary for personnel and readiness.

Voting assistance officers are available on military installations and in units to assist servicemembers in finding information for their home states and districts. These officers can help people register to vote and request absentee ballots.

The U.S. Postal Service has committed to sending voting materials to and from servicemembers overseas via express mail, Dr. Chu said.

"This year, the post office is going ... to expedite the movement of absentee ballots ... to help us be sure they get out there in time and to get back and get counted," he said.

DOD officials have designated two specific timeframes to raise awareness of issues facing military voters specifically and, more generally, everyone who must vote by absentee ballot. Today to Sept. 11, which includes Labor Day, was designated Armed Forces Voters Week. Columbus Day week, Oct. 11 to 15, will be Overseas Voting Week.

"This week is the last really safe week to submit a Federal Post Card Application, SF-76, request for registration and/or an absentee ballot, which meets most state deadlines," said Maj. Kenneth Prince, Incirlik alternate voting committee chairman.

Voting assistance officers will redouble their efforts to get information to potential voters during these weeks, a DOD spokesman said. Commanders and supervisors will also highlight the importance of voting and options available to troops.

A good source of information is the Web site of the Federal Voting Assistance Program, Dr. Chu said. The site includes links to absentee voting rules for all states and jurisdictions.

From this site, potential voters can fill out and submit an on-line version of the Federal Post Card Application, which allows individuals to register to vote or request an absentee ballot from nearly all U.S. jurisdictions.

FPCAs are available from unit voting representatives who can be found on the Source link at <http://source/39abw/39msg/39CS/voting/Documents/VotingReps.htm>. People can also call 6-VOTE and leave their name and squadron and a FPCA will be delivered to them. Those at home can call and leave a date, time and address and a FPCA will be delivered to their home on base. FPCAs are also available at the fitness center and official documents center.

Finally, Dr. Chu said, people should be aware they can use a Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot to vote in congressional and presidential elections if they do not receive their absentee ballots in time. Information on using this form is also available on the FVAP Web site.

"You can (use this form) if you're a registered voter," Dr. Chu said. "And that is one of your last-ditch options."



Photo by Senior Airman James Seymore III

Induction

Incirlik's newest senior NCOs are inducted during a ceremony at the club Aug. 27. Chief Master Sgt. Raymond Allen, 39th Air Base Wing incoming command chief master sergeant, was the guest speaker.

MilPDS easier for everyone to use

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — Three years ago, the Air Force Personnel Center replaced its 30-year-old computer mainframes running on obsolete software with the Military Personnel Data System.

The new system was not just an upgrade, but an entirely new platform designed to use Web technology for instant access and feedback; a system that could take on new functions and grow. Planners expected significant improvements in service and capabilities but the complexity of the personnel system yielded unanticipated problems.

“MilPDS is like a Phoenix rising from the ashes — its performance has been getting better by the day,” said Col. Greg Touhill, Air Force Personnel Center director of personnel data systems. “By implementing best practices from the Air Force’s Operationalizing and Professionalizing the Network program, we’ve stabilized the system, fixed most major defects and have virtually eliminated unscheduled outages. While we still have challenges in improving the personnel system, we’re back on the right track for our Air Force.”

Each function added to the system starts with an analysis by the Air Force Personnel Operations Agency’s Personnel Systems Requirements Office, according to Mr. Richard Wheat, the chief of the Randolph AFB-based office.

“We translate the Air Force’s personnel needs into business rules — an ‘if this, then that’ kind of language of how the functions interact with each other, including the non-MilPDS systems interfaces from which data needs to be pulled,” said Mr. Wheat. “More than 200,000 business rules are in the MilPDS, many being checks and balances for each other that cross several functional areas of military personnel management.”

Once the requirement is defined by the personnel community, the process then switches to the System Program Office, a unique office from Electronic Systems Center charged with the responsibility to ac-

quire software and hardware to meet Air Force human resource needs.

“The initial fielding of MilPDS was based on commercial software customized to incorporate unique Air Force processes,” said Col. Howard Borst, human resources command and control SPO chief. “The complexity of the Air Force’s business rules necessitated significant customization of the code. Testing and error correction was not thoroughly completed prior to initial fielding. We’ve changed our processes to ensure the integrity of the system and improve customer service. We’ve also worked to insert fixes that improve capability with immediate pay-off to the folks in the field.”

A sergeant working in the Incirlik military personnel flight pulled a query of 209 names in under 10 seconds and then exported in about one minute. Under the original MilPDS capability this process used to take two to three hours.

“Everyone here at the Incirlik MPF continues to be happy with the improvement in performance, and it has definitely made making updates to the personnel system faster and pulling data less frustrating,” said Maj. Cynthia Gaare, 39th Mission Support Squadron commander.

Analysis showed initial MilPDS training was deficient and contributed to airmen manually inputting wrong information into the system. As a result, AFPC’s Field Operations Directorate sent training teams out to 82 active-duty military personnel flights and has trained 100 percent of the Reserve and nearly all of the Guard MPFs.

The efforts to stabilize and fix MilPDS are having a decided effect on Air Force operations. “MilPDS data is light-years better than it was even two years ago,” said Col. Chris Miller, 509th Base Wing commander. “Beyond the clear improvement so far, I’m encouraged that the Air Force is pressing hard to make MilPDS data even easier for commanders, supervisors, and all Airmen to use.”

CSAF speaks on decreased AF manning

By Tech. Sgt. Mona Ferrell
USAFE News Service

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — Although the Air Force is required to reduce personnel manning numbers, a decrease in recruiting rather than forced reductions, is the right way to make it happen, said the service’s senior uniformed leader during a visit here Aug. 30.

Throughout this process, ensuring America’s Airmen know they are appreciated is a number one priority, said Gen. John P. Jumper, the Air Force chief of staff.

“Retention and recruiting for the Air Force throughout this crisis over the last three years has remained superb,” the general said. “Even after Stop-Loss was lifted and people feared that Airmen would be leaving the Air Force in great numbers, especially in the Guard and Reserve, it just didn’t happen.

“And so we find ourselves in a position where we have 20,000 people more than we should have by law,” he continued. “I want to try and deal with it without any forced reductions in the force. I don’t want anybody to be forced to leave that doesn’t want to. The Secretary of

the Air Force, (Dr. James G. Roche), and I are absolutely dedicated to making sure we don’t break faith with our Airmen.”

In order to get the manning numbers to where they should be and keep Airmen’s faith, recruiting is going to be cut by about one third for a year, General Jumper said.

“We’ve never tried this before, but I think it’s the right thing to do” he said. “Taking that (recruiting) loss in one year (should help us) get back to the numbers we’re supposed to have, and we hope that the excesses in the few previous years will help fill in those holes as far as grade opportunity ...”

Taking care of our people, and the Air Force organization as a whole, is all about knowing where the critical shortages are and ensuring the right people have the right skills and are doing the right things, General Jumper said.

“We went for years during the ‘90s making cuts in people,” he said. “We would cut 10 percent, and then 15 percent and then 20 percent — and then we finally ended up cutting a total of 40 percent of our force ... In a lot of cases, those slots didn’t go away, and people with other skills then migrated into them. You

have people with essential skills that we need, now filling slots that should have been taken off the books and never were.

“It’s a hard thing to do and it’s very traumatic, but the first two years of my tenure we got the books balanced, and we got the people out of the slots that were supposed to be emptied; we got the right people in the right slots,” he said. “Only then did we really know what our critical shortages were.”

But this shift in manning doesn’t mean we’re doing more with less, said General Jumper.

“We’ve had pay raises and bonuses that have continued in unprecedented levels that Congress continues to vote for us,” he continued. “We’re not doing more with less, we are doing more with the same amount of people — particularly when you talk about trying to sustain two wars.”

It all comes down to proper utilization of our people and letting them know they’re valued, the general said.

“What I want everybody to know,” General Jumper said. “(Is) that every Airman out there — we appreciate their service and we’re going to do everything we can to keep people who want to stay in the service in the service.”

Postal procedures in place for 2004 election

By Roger Kolkena
2nd Air Postal Squadron

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany – The Department of Defense and postal officials are making every effort to ensure every American overseas can exercise a fundamental responsibility of citizenship – to cast their vote.

The Military Postal Service Agency and the United States Postal Service have devised a new process to speed the movement of overseas absentee ballots, said 1st Lt. Andrew Ignash, 2nd Air Postal Squadron postal operations chief, Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

“The common goal of everyone in the military postal system is to provide the best service possible,” Lieutenant Ignash said. “We are dedicated to making sure that your vote counts.”

To aid in this process, stateside postmasters are working with county election officials to gather military ballots for special handling. Postmasters Express Mail those ballots to three gateway destinations: San Francisco, Miami and New York.

“For those stationed in Europe, ballots are mailed through the New York gateway,” the lieutenant said. “USPS mail handlers promptly sort balloting matter, place it in specially marked mail trays, and present it to commercial air carriers. Trays with voting materials receive priority handling from airline cargo handlers as well.”

Once in Europe, military postal personnel ensure every ballot is given priority handling as it travels to the service member, said Tech. Sgt. Craig Thomas, 2nd Air Postal Squadron postal operations specialist.

“Military postmasters report how many ballots are received from CONUS, distributed to customers, postmarked and dispatched, returned to sender and forwarded to a new address,” he said. “MPSA uses this data to measure ballot transit times and identify possible problems that could delay ballots.”

Once a citizen overseas votes, the same rapid process occurs in reverse.

“When ballots are received at the APO, a mail clerk hand-applies a legible post mark to the envelopes and places them in specially marked trays for priority transportation to the United States,” said Sergeant Thomas. “At the postal gateways, ballots enter the domestic mail flow for delivery to county election officials.”

From Oct. 30 until Nov. 8, postal officials in New York will separate balloting materials and

use Express Mail to rush ballots to county officials.

“Postal officials recommend voters mail off their ballots by Oct. 15 to assure county election officials receive them by Election Day,” Lieutenant Ignash said. “Voting officers have details about individual state rules and requirements.”

It’s important that voters ensure the return address is correct on the absentee ballot, said Sergeant Thomas.

“Customers should use their standard APO address format and never include in the address the name of the foreign country where based,” he said. “Including a foreign country name could cause mail to be routed through international mail channels.”

In addition to these measures, procedures are also in place in the event that a mail delivery failure occurs, said the lieutenant.

“The Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot, SF 186, is an “emergency” ballot available to those who have met state ballot request deadline but do not receive an absentee ballot by the third week of October,” he said.

“We’re doing everything we can to ensure military members stationed overseas have the opportunity to vote,” Lieutenant Ignash said. “And that their vote counts.”

More information about voting can be obtained from unit voting assistance officers, the Airman Votes Web site, located at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/AirmenVotes/, and The Federal Voting Assistance Program Web site at <http://www.fvap.gov/>.



IN
BRIEF

Retirement

The 39th Air Base Wing commander hosts a retirement ceremony for Chief Master Sgt. Joseph Toohey, 39th Air Base Wing command chief, Sept. 10 at 4 p.m. in the club.

Housing meeting

The quarterly housing town hall meeting is Sept. 13 at 5 p.m. at the base theatre. For more information, call Chief Master Sgt. Jeffrey Peters at 6-1777.

Holiday greetings

Army and Air Force Hometown News Service Holiday Greetings team will videotape holiday greetings for all military members and civilians at Incirlik Sept. 13-15. The taping will take place in the interior court yard of the high school.

All military personnel must be in uniform and are encouraged to bring their family members. Sign up for a 20-minute time block by Sept. 13. No walk-ins will be accepted. To reserve a time or for more information, call Staff Sgt. Eugene Taylor, American Forces Network-Incirlik, at 6-6491.

CGOC

The company grade officer council is looking for an organization needing financial assistance to sponsor. If interested or for more information, call 2nd Lt. Jason Roberson at 6-1168.

'You made the grade'

You Made the Grade program is for Department of Defense Dependent Schools students in grades six to 12 with a "B" average or higher. Students can take their grade reports to the cashiers cage in the main exchange to receive a coupon book and register for a U.S. Savings Bond. For more information, call Ann Yi at 0533-742-6020.

Service store closure

The base service store is closed Tuesday to Thursday for semiannual inventory. For more information, call Master Sgt. Sundra Washington, 39th Logistics Readiness Squadron retail sales superintendent, at 6-8308 or 6-6538.



Eirik Gohl, 14, and his mom Dawna shop for back to school supplies at the base exchange. Photo by Senior Airman Dallas Edwards

Incirlik goes back to school

♦ **School registration** — If children are not registered yet, they should do so immediately. Call the elementary school at 6-3109 or the high school at 6-6484 for detailed information.

♦ **Personnel** — Sandy DiQuinzio is the new high school principal, and she is coming to Incirlik from Cuba. The high school also has a new guidance counselor, James Bottlinger, who is arriving from Okinawa, Japan.

♦ **Services** — Transportation to and from school is available to those who qualify. If a child is in grades K-6 and lives in Falcon or Eagle housing, a "request for transportation" form must be on file before your child can legally ride the bus. Call the transportation office at 6-3750 or 6-3043 for details as bus stops and times are still being worked out.

♦ **Lunches** — The free and reduced lunch program will be the same as last year except there will be a price increase of \$.10 per meal.

Prices for lunch are: students eligible for free lunch — no charge; students eligible for reduced price lunch — \$0.40; K-6 students paying full price for lunch — \$2.05; 7-12 students paying full price for lunch — \$2.20; and non-Students — \$3.30

♦ **Parking lot** — The school parking lot was repainted and traffic is one way. The loading and unloading zone is intended for quick pick-ups and drop-offs. Do not stop,

block or park vehicles in this area. If extra drop-off time is needed in the morning, pull into one of the ten 30-minute parking slots. These slots are intended for parents or sponsors visiting the school for short durations.

♦ **School buses** — The blue military buses double as school buses. When they stop to unload or pick up students, traffic in both directions should stop and not attempt to pass unless told to do so by the driver or bus-safety monitor. Bus-safety monitors are easily identified by an orange safety vest. Violators are subject to a moving violation citation.

♦ **Security** — Tag children's backpacks and lunch carriers with their name and classroom. Also, as long as the base is in force protection Charlie and single point of entry is being enforced, the schools will continue to enforce it as well.

♦ **Contact numbers**
Elementary School Office — 6-3109
High School Office — 6-6330

♦ **Back to school celebration** — There will be a back to school celebration Saturday from 1 to 3 p.m. Elementary students will celebrate in the elementary school multipurpose room. High school students will meet in the high school courtyard. Teacher lists and class schedules will also be available. For more information, call the elementary school at 6-3109 or the high school at 6-6330.

Safety Tips



Riding the Bus

Last year, approximately 26 students were killed and another 9,000 were injured in incidents involving school buses. More often than not, these deaths and injuries did not occur in a crash, but as the pupils were entering and exiting the bus. Remember these safety tips:

- ♦ Have a safe place to wait for the bus, away from traffic and the street.
- ♦ Stay away from the bus until it comes to a complete stop and the driver signals it is safe to enter.
- ♦ When being dropped off, exit the bus and walk ten giant steps away from the bus. Keep a safe distance between you and the bus. Also, remember the bus driver can see children best when they are back away from the bus.
- ♦ Use the handrail to enter and exit the bus.
- ♦ Be aware of the street traffic around you.

Walking and Biking

Even if children do not ride in a motor vehicle, they still have to protect themselves. Young pedestrians face a wide variety of decisions making situations and dangers while walking to and from school due to lack of adult supervision. Here are a few basic safety tips to follow:

- ♦ Walk bikes through intersections.
- ♦ Walk with a buddy.
- ♦ Wear reflective material. It makes you more visible to street traffic.

Riding in a Car

♦ Safety belts are the best form of protection passengers have in the event of a crash. They can lower the risk of injury by 45 percent.

♦ Everyone needs to be buckled up properly. That means older kids in seat belts, younger kids in booster seats and little kids in child safety seats.

(Courtesy of www.nsc.org.)



Photos by Senior Airman Dallas Edwards

Staff Sgt. Eric Alber (front), 39th Security Forces Squadron armory NCO in charge, putts as Senior Airman Brandon Layman, 39th SFS pass and registration assistant NCO in charge, watches at the 2004 Base Intramural Golf Championship Aug. 26.

39 CS/AFN wins 2004 golf championship

By Tech. Sgt. Robert Burgess
39th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

All it took for 39 CS/AFN to win the 2004 Base Intramural Golf Championship at the Hodja Golf Course Aug. 26 was to hold on to a one hole lead with two holes to go.

In the two-person scramble format, where players select the best ball, 39CS/AFN dominated the regular season giving up only 1.5 points out of a possible 48.

"Clinching the title was a group effort, and we had strong players willing to come out each week," said Raymond Boyd. "I can't say one person stood out over anyone else all season."

In the championship match after nine holes, 39CS/AFN A players, Danny McKittrick and Christopher Shumaker, were ahead 1 point against CON/SFS's A players Matt Josefowicz and Paul Bugenske.

The front nine and the back nine are worth 1.5 points each for a total of 3 points per match.

On the back nine, Josefowicz said they had a chance to take 2 points and win the championship since the B players, CONS/SFS Brandon Layman and Eric Alber, split their match against CS/AFN Ray Boyd and Greg Manhardt.

"It was a good match with two holes remaining the score was 10 under to 8 under par ... we put up a good fight," said Josefowicz. "The conditions of the course were excellent and there was a slight breeze, but not enough to affect our shot making ability."



Senior Airman Brandon Layman, 39th Security Forces Squadron pass and registration assistant NCO in charge, successfully completes an up and down on the Hodja Lakes Golf Course.

Bowl-a-thon — The Airlift Tanker Association sponsors a back to school bowl-a-thon Monday from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Magic Carpet bowling alley. Cost is \$15 per five-person team per game. First 10 teams to sign up play. For more information, call Master Sgt. Kevin McCarty at 6-8139 or e-mail at kevin.mccarty@incirlik.af.mil.

Soccer volunteers — Volunteers are needed for the upcoming soccer season. Open jambo-ree begins Sept. 18 for ages 5 to 18. Volunteer packets are accepted at the youth center. For more information, call Jerome Latimer at 6-6670.

Soccer camp — Soccer camp begins Saturday and runs until today. The cost is \$25. For more information, call Jerome Latimer at 6-6670.

Water aerobics — Water aerobics classes are offered Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 6 to 7 p.m. Cost is \$30 per month. For more information, call 6-6044.

Skeet and trap shooting — Outdoor recreation offers skeet and trap shooting Tuesdays through Fridays by appointment. Open shooting begins Saturdays at 9 a.m. Cost is \$10, and includes shells and clays. For more information, call 6-6044.

Scuba course — Outdoor recreation offers a scuba course, which includes training and Professional Association of Diving Instructors certification. Water training is provided in an indoor pool, plus four open water dives in Kizkalesi. Cost is \$250. For more information, call Yasar Karalar, scuba instructor, at 6-6044 or e-mail incirlikdiving@yahoo.com.

Extreme Summer points — People can earn Extreme Summer points by submitting a FitPoints report. The report is at the FitLinxx Web site at www.incirlik.fitlinxx.com under "Workouts." For more information, call the fitness center at 6-6086.

Lap swim — Early morning lap swim is Mondays through Fridays from 6 to 7 a.m. at the base pool. For more information, call 6-3442.

COMMANDER'S COMMENTS



By Col. Michael Gardiner, 39th Air Base Wing commander

Incirlik UCI – 44 days to go!

Remember, when preparing for the upcoming inspection, there is nothing gained by covering up problems you find during self inspections. Don't hide bad news! If you have problems, and almost every function does at one time or another, identify them and show what you are doing to fix them. By now, every duty section should be well down the road to preparing for this important event.

Kudos

The 39th Air Base Wing Antiterrorism/Force Protection Office

'Single voice'

Public Affairs triad delivers commander's messages

By Master Sgt. Larry Schneck
American Forces Network – Incirlik
detachment chief

Our Air Force projects the most awesome military power in the history of humankind. The winning combination of people and machines depends on the integrity of the team at every point in the chain of command.

The Airmen in uniform today are zealous in the cause of serving America. A love of country translates into the pride displayed through our daily duties. This could not be more true than with our 39th Air Base Wing Public Affairs triad.

The triad stands on the collective abilities of the public affairs staff, base multimedia center professionals and information warfighters at American Forces Network.

How does this mix of photographers, military broadcasters, videographers, maintenance technicians, graphic artists and print journalists mesh into a single team? We jointly target a unifying goal of clear and concise communication.

The triad of PA, AFN and the base multimedia center, formerly called visual information, carry out the objectives set forth by the wing commander through his internal com-

mand information mission.

We package Col. Michael Gardiner's messages into products comparable to what you see and hear in the United States – a single voice – giving the commander tools to communicate to his troops.

The full spectrum includes base-level posters, photos and videos produced by BMC to a morning radio show and nightly TV newscast on AFN to the pages of the *Tip of the Sword*.

Our vision remains – communicate the commander's messages accurately and clearly.

I consider our detachment the best in the Air Force and the Department of Defense agrees. DoD awarded the Incirlik Nightly News a first-place distinction in the annual Thomas Jefferson Media Awards and multiple awards in the Air Force Media Contest.

Honing the skills of a communicator requires hard work, dedication and artistic skill. We deploy broadcasters and maintenance technicians to Bagram and Baghdad.

But, nothing is more important than the role we play in Turkey. The communication excellence from the 39th ABW PA triad ensures we continue to meet the challenge and deliver the commander's messages.

won 2003 Best Antiterrorism Program-Installation Category for U.S. Air Forces in Europe and European Command. Now, their program received an honorable mention from the Department of Defense. Congratulations and keep up the good work.

101 Critical Days

Labor Day weekend is here, and many of us are planning for our favorite warm-weather activities such as traveling, picnics, campouts, boating, swimming, fishing and baseball. All of our weekend plans can be great fun if we keep safety in mind.

This weekend marks the end of the "101 Critical Days", and we've had a good safety record over the summer, thanks to you. Now is not the time to let safety slip to the way side. Continue to make responsible decisions in your activities, and let's end this campaign with every Incirlik servicemember, civilian and family member back here safe and sound!

Force protection

Make sure you take the time to continually scan and assess your surroundings for danger, especially while on vacation. Check you vehicle carefully for anything that looks out of place. Be suspicious, but blend into your surroundings. Always lock your vehicles and keep valuables, especially your military ID and credit cards, on your person at all times. Force protection: your life depends on it!

Congress establishes political participation guidelines for military

By Capt. John Harwood
Assistant Staff Judge Advocate

Congress has established some guidelines regarding political participation of military members.

Military members are permitted, and even encouraged, to participate in the political process by registering and voting in local, state and national elections; expressing opinions in public and private on political subjects; actively participating in political party activities; and engaging in non-partisan activities of civic and community organizations.

There are, however, some specific prohibitions on the political activities of military members. These are established as protections, to ensure military members are not coerced or unduly influenced by their superiors. The prohibitions include using official authority or influence in political activities; soliciting donations for candidates at official speeches or events; using an official title in fundraising activities; and using government-owned vehicles, offices and equipment for partisan political activities. Be particularly sensitive to conducting political activities while in uniform, and while on duty.



Ask MEHMET

By Mehmet Birbiri, *Host Nation Adviser*

Turkish tea houses

Question: I met a Turkish friend at a tea house off base. I noticed only men were in the tea house. I also noticed that men play a game with boards and small pieces with numbers on them. What kind of game is it?

Response: The game you are asking about is called okey, pronounced as “okay.” It’s a very common game. I saw almost the same game in an American friend’s house several years ago, and it’s called Rummikub.

Men play games – like okey, backgammon and cards – to kill time in a tea house.

Tea houses have a very special place and importance in the Turkish life and culture.

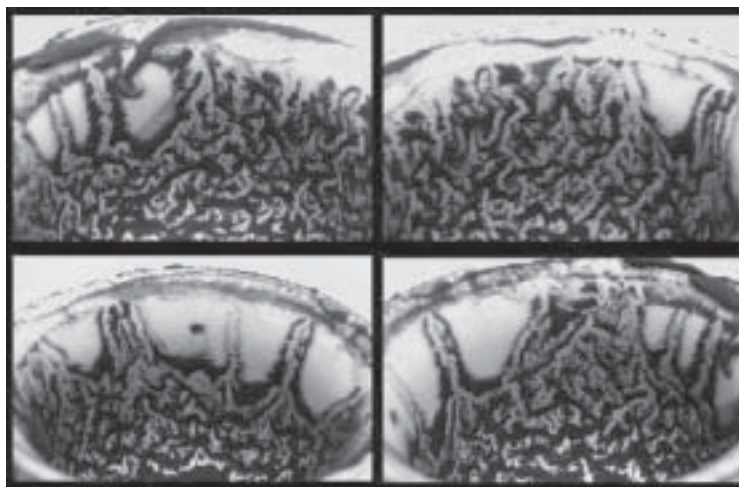
The history of tea houses goes back several hundred years. Turkey was a male-dominated country. Men go to tea houses after work to meet their friends and kill time. Tea houses serve as community club houses. Some groups, clubs and political parties hold their meetings in tea houses because the audience is already available. Tea houses have enough space and chairs to accommodate large groups of people and can extend to a yard or the street as well.

There are more than 400,000 tea houses in Turkey. It outnumbers the schools and mosques. You can find at least one tea house in every village. Some villages have more than two tea houses. You can see several tea houses on the same street at the skirts of the big cities. Tea houses are also the center and meeting place for the unemployed people.

A tea house’s sign reads Kiraathane. The word Kiraat is originally Arabic and means to read or chant. Hane means home or place. Thus, kiraathane could be translated as “reading-chanting place.”

We used to have traveling minstrels throughout the country. They moved from one village or town to another reading or chanting their poems and playing their stringed instrument called saz. Kiraathanes were the places for the minstrels to perform their skills. Unfortunately, there aren’t many minstrels today, so men have taken to playing games in the gathering places.

Coffee was introduced to Turkish people



Fortune telling out of coffee cups after drinking Turkish coffee is a common, popular and ancient art in Turkey. Fortune tellers predict the future according to the designs and shapes the coffee sediment creates in the cup.

in mid-16th century. It was brought to Turkey from the Arabian peninsula which was part of the Ottoman territory then. Coffee became the main beverage in kiraathanes.

As a matter of fact, the name of kiraathane has not changed officially yet, but since coffee drinking has become so popular, the name of those places is called kahve (kahveh) by the public. Kahve means coffee in Turkish as well as coffee-house. The popularity and fame of Turkish coffee spread from coffee houses.

Although it is called kahve, due to its price, Turkish tea is the main beverage consumed in the coffee houses now. In addition to tea and coffee, almost all kinds of cold beverages and sodas are available too. No alcoholic beverages, except beer in some of them, are served in tea houses.

Fortune telling

Question: Mehmet, I heard fortune telling with the help of coffee cups is very common. Could you tell us about that?

Response: Fortune telling out of coffee cups after drinking Turkish coffee is a common, popular and ancient art in Turkey.

Not everybody can read the coffee cups, but it is quite popular especially among women. There is a Turkish proverb that says, “The memories of a cup of coffee are good for forty years.” In order to prolong their visit women generally ask each other to read their coffee cups.

The way it works is, you put the saucer on top of the coffee cup after you have finished. Then, shake the cup slightly and turn it saucer upside down. Let the cup cool a while and hand it to the fortune teller.

Fortune tellers predict the future according to the designs and shapes the coffee sediment creates in the cup. No two fortune tellers ever agree on the meanings they see in the grounds.

A wide variety of subjects may be seen; such as finance, travel, politics, love and matrimony. If the teller knows the subject the individual is interested in, the fortune usually gets a more accurate forecast.

Some people make fortune telling out of coffee cups professionally and make their living out of it.

Here are some of the more popular interpretations you might search for if you want to become a fortune teller:

- ♦ Large white spaces mean peace of mind.
- ♦ A vertical white line down the side of the cup is a snake symbol meaning bad luck.
- ♦ A white uninterrupted circle around the top of the cup means travel. But if it blocked by a patch of black, it means you’ll have to turn back before the journey is completed or cancel it in the last minute.
- ♦ Some white lines are also interpreted as travel. A long line means a long trip, a short line means a short trip.
- ♦ A white pigeon-shape is a good sign meaning happiness or good news you will get pretty soon. Sometimes the fortune tellers give an estimated time of receiving that news as well depending on the black spots they see around the pigeon-like shape.
- ♦ A horse-shape is a sign that your wishes will come true.
- ♦ A big gate and white space after means you will solve your problems.
- ♦ Lumps on the sides mean money.
- ♦ A big lump at the bottom of the cup means problems.

There is another Turkish saying about fortune telling, “Don’t believe in fortune telling, but don’t disregard it either.”

Do you have a question about something Turkish? Ask Mehmet. To submit a question, call 6-6060 or e-mail mehmet.birbiri@incirlik.af.mil.

THE INCIRLIK GUIDE



Today

Teen Movie — The youth center Teen Movie Night is from 7 to 10 p.m. The cost is \$3 for members and is open to youth ages 6 to 12. For more information, call the youth center at 6-6670.

Thursday

Budgeting class — The family support center offers a budgeting class from 9 to 10 a.m. For more information, call 6-6755.

Saturday

Postal hours change on Saturdays — The parcel pick-up window will close at 1 p.m. every Saturday. The lobby will remain open until 7 p.m. to allow customers to check their postal receptacles. For more information, call 6-6805.

Upcoming

International Spouses Group

— The family support Center is offering an open forum for people in a relationship with a non-American to share experiences and common issues Sept. 16 from 5 to 6 p.m. For more information call the family support center at 6-6755.

IAHS PTSC nominations — Incirlik American High School Parent-Teacher-Student Club board members are being accepted through Sept. 17. Elections are scheduled for Sept. 21 at 6 p.m. in the high school media center. For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. John Herkel at 6-6439.

Ongoing

Back to school kit — The base library is offering free back to school packages for grades kindergarten through 12. In addition, the library has hundreds of new children's books and entertainment and education DVDs available for checking out. For more

information, call 6-6759.

Youth Employment Skills —

The youth employment skills, or Yes, is an on-base youth volunteer program funded by the Air Force Aid Society. The program gives high school aged dependents an opportunity to learn valuable work skills. Participating students earn credits at a rate of \$4 per hour which go toward a post-secondary education. Participates can earn up to 250 hours, totaling \$1,000 over four years of combined high school. For more information, call the youth center at 6-6670.

Have an IDEA? — The IDEA Program is a great way to make improvements to the way you do business. For every idea you submit, you stand the chance of earning a monetary award. Submit your IDEAs through the online Web site Idea Program Data System at <https://ideas.randolph.af.mil/ipdswarn.html>. For more information call Tech. Sgt. Warren Singleton at 6-8402 or Martha Valdez at 6-3491.

Club membership drive — Sign up for an Incirlik Club membership through Nov. 30. Both existing and new club members can win prizes during the drive. For more information, call the club at 6-6010.

Latin Dance Committee — The community center seeks Latin Dance Committee members in preparation of Hispanic Heritage Month. For more information, call Nerissa Atkinson at 6-1032.

School registration — The high school office is open for registration Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Students in grades seventh through 12th can be registered at this office. For more information, call Tefvik Esberk at 6-6330.

Conversational Turkish — The community center sponsors a conversational Turkish class Mondays and Wednesdays from

6 to 8 p.m. For more information, call the CAC at 6-6966.

Summer Sunday breakfast —

A la carte breakfast will be served at the club instead of brunch during the summer months from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. For more information, call the club at 6-6010.

SAF policy change — The stray animal facility will only be

open Saturdays from 9 to 10 a.m. The facility is still accepting donations, but no longer holds animals. For more information or to volunteer, call Staff Sgt. Caroline Wood at 6-6072.

Guitar classes — Guitar classes are available Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5 to 8 p.m. Cost is \$40. For more information, call Dee Mills at 6-6966.

COMBAT & SPECIAL INTEREST PROGRAMS



Friday

Crossroads Café closure

— The Crossroads Café is closed today and Saturday in observance of Labor Day Weekend. For more information, call Senior Airman Tianna Milagro at 6-6441.

Upcoming

Air Force birthday block party

— Project CHEER is sponsoring a block party celebrating the Air Force's 57th birthday featuring the Latin rock band "Neon Venus" Sept. 17 at the community center. The celebration kicks off at 6 p.m. with a variety of free food. Air Force Network - Incirlik will provide live feed during the event which includes squadron and group games and much more. Events include a pool tournament at the community center, prizes and tug-of-war. In addition to prizes for participants, someone in U.S. Air Forces in Europe will win a 2005 Chevy Equinox. All Department of Defense ID card holders 18 years of age and older are eligible to win the vehicle. To win the Chevy, registration forms must be received via fax or mail at U.S. Air Forces

in Europe before 5 p.m. Sept. 17. For more information, call the 6-6966.

Ongoing

Religious channels move

— The two Combat Touch religious channels have moved to channel 15 and 16. The protestant channel is on channel 15 and Eternal Word Television Network Catholic programming is on channel 16. To retune non-cable-ready TVs select "cable" instead of "air." For more information, call the chapel at 6-6441.

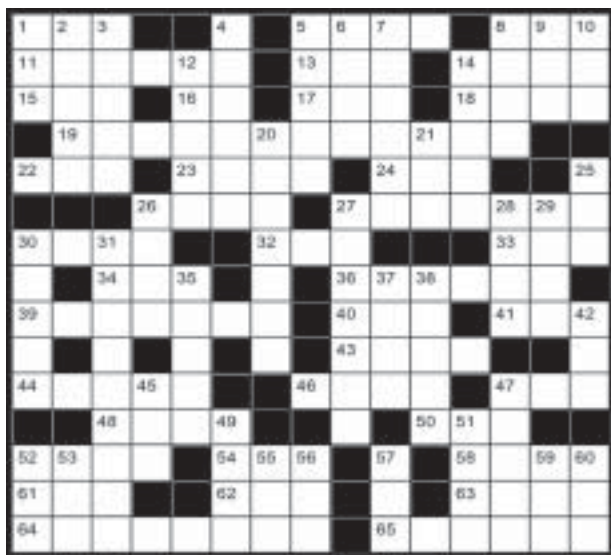
Newcomer's in-processing

— The family support center sponsors Part One of the newcomer's briefing Tuesdays from 7:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and part two is Wednesdays from 7:30 a.m. to noon at . For more information, call 6-6755.

Daily Mass on hold

— Catholic Daily Mass, which is normally held at the chapel Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6 p.m. in the Blessed Sacrament Room, are cancelled through Sept. 23. For more information about Daily Mass, call Patty Heidlage at 6-3890.

Airmen Heroes MOH Recipients



By 1st Lt. Tony Wickman
Alaskan Command Public Affairs

ACROSS

1. Pub order
5. Machine shaft parts
8. Sheep sound
11. Emanate
13. Org. concerned with troop morale
14. Cubicle
15. Rip or crosscut
16. Postal abbrev. for state home to Scott AFB
17. ___ Tin Tin
18. Joule
19. Airman Medal of Honor recipient A1C William H. ___ (Vietnam)
22. Mil. telephone system
23. Wallet fillers
24. Type of painting
26. Airman Medal of Honor recipient Col. Demas T. ___ (WWII)
27. Roman army units
30. Horse command!
32. Formerly
33. Sea between Arabia and Africa
34. One branch of DoD
36. Airman Medal of Honor recipient

- ent TSgt Forrest L. ___ (WWII)
39. Airman Medal of Honor recipient SSgt. Archibald ___ (WWII)
40. "___ little teapot ..." (two words)
41. Grass
43. Skew
44. Airman Medal of Honor recipient Sgt. Maynard H. ___ (WWII)
46. Airman Medal of Honor recipient 1Lt. Donald J. ___ (WWII)
47. Bashful
48. Scottish Celt
50. SFS post reading material?
52. Leggo my ___
54. Grunt
58. Open
61. Neck accessory
62. Foreign auto maker
63. Airman Medal of Honor recipient Col. John R. ___ (WWII)
64. Airman Medal of Honor recipient Maj. Horace S. ___ Jr. (WWII)
65. Thin

DOWN

1. Commercials
2. Jumps
3. Airman Medal of Honor recipient MSgt Henry ___ (WWII)
4. Montana capital
5. Tempers
6. China continent
7. 5th US President
8. Bar drink
9. Pie ___ mode (two words)
10. Model Carol
12. Screen
14. Airman Medal of Honor recipient Maj. Ralph ___ (WWII)
20. State of something recently purchased
21. Singing engagement
25. SECDEF's office symbol
26. Currency
27. Airman Medal of Honor recipient A1C John L. ___ (Vietnam)
28. Mining goals
29. Emperor who fiddled?
30. Weaklings
31. Catamaran
35. Cubby hole
37. Forget
38. Epson and table
42. Airman Medal of Honor recipient Col. George E. ___ (Vietnam)
45. Chinese poet ___ Yuan-ming; wrote of simple life
47. Airman Medal of Honor recipient Capt. Lance P. ___ (Vietnam)
49. Airman Medal of Honor recipient 2Lt. Frank ___ Jr. (WWI)
51. Japanese tea
52. Together with further examples, briefly
53. Angelina Jolie flick
55. Actor Gerard of "Buck Rogers"
56. "2001: A Space Odyssey" computer
57. Asner and Harris
59. Actress ___ Margaret
60. Del ___ Oaks, CA

(The crossword puzzle solution will be printed in the Sept. 10 edition of the *Tip of the Sword*.)

YOUR TURN

To submit a question for "Your Turn," call 6-6060 or e-mail tip.sword@incirlik.af.mil

How are you preparing for October's UCI Inspection?

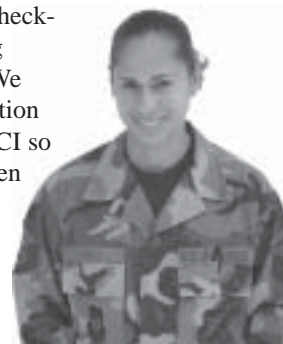
"I have to ensure files and file plans are up to date."

– Staff Sgt.
Desmond Douglas,
39th Logistics
Readiness Squad-
ron



"Everyone has a check-list and we're running through all of them. We have a postal in-spection a month before the UCI so we'll have already been inspected."

– Master Sgt.
Madrea Yagmur, 39th
Communications
Squadron



"We are running our checklists and doing a lot of cleaning, and making sure we're dotting our i's and crossing our t's."

– Senior
Master Sgt. Gary Hamm, 39th LRS



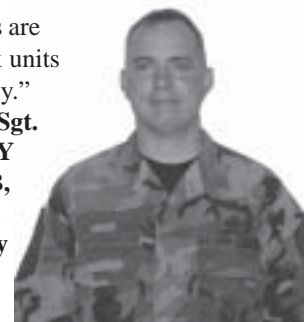
"At the child development center, we're making sure every child's records and our files and forms are up to date."

– Penny Whaley,
39th Services
Squadron



"People should make sure their files are organized and work units are clean and orderly."

– Chief Master Sgt.
Richard Smith, TDY
from Fairchild AFB,
Wash., pre-inspect
of the 39th Security
Forces Squadron
for the UCI



CLASSIFIEDS

For sale: 1991 Toyota Cynos, two doors, Japanese specs, clean, runs great, \$1,300 OBO. For more information, call Donnie at 6-9179 or 6-2015

For sale: Two girls' bikes make offer; bunk beds in excellent condition \$100 OBO. For more information, call 6-5407.

Free to a good home due to TDY & PCS: A

2-year-old male kitten. He is a de-clawed, short hair cat. Sweet, gentle personality. Has shots/AVID chip current. Comes with kennel, food, litter box and toys. For more information, call Liz at 6-1990 (work) or 6-5916 (home).

Free to a good home: A 4-month-old male kitten. He has all shots, an AVID current chip and is neutered. For more information, call 6-5314.

For sale: Diamond engagement and wedding set from Fred Meyer jewelers, 14 kt., gold, 1 kt. tw., never worn, \$1,700. For more information, call Amber at 6-2933 or 0535-300-2903.



Photo by Airman Bradley Lail

Promotions

Brig. Gen. H. Levent Turkmen (second from left), 10th Tanker Base Command commander, cuts a cake during the Turkish promotion ceremony Aug. 30. All promotions in the Turkish Armed Forces are made on this day every year. This year, 15 officers and 102 NCOs were promoted to a higher rank at the 10th Tanker Base Command. As a result of the promotions, some assignments of high-ranking officers take place during this time of the year. NCOs and officers also enter the service on this day after graduating from school and when new assignments are made.



AT THE MOVIES

At the Oasis

Today

Anchorman (PG-13) — Starring Will Ferrell and Christina Applegate. When feminism marches into the newsroom in the form of ambitious newswoman Veronica Corningstone, Ron, the top-rated anchorman in San Diego, is willing to play along at first, as long as Veronica stays in her place, covering cat fashion shows, cooking and other “female” interests. But when Veronica refuses to settle for being eye candy and steps behind the news desk, it is more than a battle between two perfectly coiffed anchor-persons, it is war. Showing at 7 p.m. (91 minutes)



Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story (PG-13)

— Starring Ben Stiller and Vince Vaughn. When corporate workout center Globo Gym moves to town, locally owned fitness center, Average Joe’s, loses business and its manager can’t make the mortgage payment. Faced with going under, the crew from Joe’s enters a high-stakes dodgeball tournament in order to save their cherished local gym. Rated PG-13 Showing at 9 pm. (100 minutes)



Saturday

Two Brothers (PG) — Starring Guy Pearce and Jean-Claude Dreyfus. Twin tigers, one bold and one shy, are born in a city of ruins in French Indochina and are soon captured. The bold brother is forced to become a circus performer, while the shy sibling becomes the companion of a governor’s son. But an accident leads the governor to sell the tiger to an adventurer and they find themselves reunited as forced enemies, pitted against each other in a fighting match.



Showing at 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. (109 minutes)

Sunday

Anchorman (PG-13) — Starring Will Ferrell and Christina Applegate. Showing at 7 p.m. (91 minutes)

Thursday

The Terminal (PG-13) — Starring Tom Hanks and Catherine Zeta-Jones. An Eastern European immigrant is forced to live at Kennedy Airport when his former war-torn country’s borders are erased, voiding his passport and leaving him with no political home. The refugee meets and falls in love with a flight attendant, which prompts a bold escape plan. Showing at 7 p.m. (121 minutes)

At the M1

Open Water (R) — 1:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. (80 minutes)

Jeepers Creepers (R) — 11:30 p.m., 1:30 p.m., 3:45 p.m., 7 p.m., 9:15 p.m. and 11:30 p.m. (104 minutes)

Hellboy (R) — 11:30 p.m., 2 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7 p.m., 9:30 p.m. and 11:45 p.m. (122 minutes)

For more information and updates, call the movie recording at 6-6986 or the theater office at 6-9140. The provision of movie information does not constitute an endorsement by the 39th Air Base Wing, U.S. government, Department of Defense or Department of the U.S. Air Force. For more information, call the theater at 6-6986.